

DEC 20 1962

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-00001R000100390032-0

Castro Lifts Ban on Gifts To Prisoners

HAVANA, Dec. 19 (AP)

Premier Fidel Castro today lifted a ban on sending food and clothing to 1113 Cuban invasion prisoners, buoying hopes that all will be freed soon, informed sources said.

Castro himself was described by an official of the Committee of Prisoners' Mothers as sharing the ne-

U. S. plays key role behind the scenes in Cuban prisoner deal. Page A5.

gotiators' high hopes for an early exchange of the prisoners for U. S. food and medicine.

James B. Donovan, New York attorney and chief negotiator, declared before taking off on a flying one-day visit to Miami:

"I continue to be optimistic."

To release the Cuban exiles seized in the Bay of Pigs invasion of 1961, Castro has demanded an indemnity of about \$53 million in drugs, food and equipment.

Donovan disclosed in a statement that his four-member team in negotiations last night submitted a preliminary list of medicines and drugs already contributed to the American Red Cross for Cuba. The negotiators met with Castro and other high government officials.

Donovan said the Cuban government prepared an analysis of the list.

Donovan delayed his departure to obtain the government's analysis. In Miami, he planned to obtain a list of additional contributions and return to Havana Thursday. He is hopeful that the prisoners may be released by Christmas.

Parents and relatives were notified that they could send food and clothing to the prisoners.

FOIAb3b

CPYRIGHT